The Government of Karnataka has also requested to release Rs. 130.24 lakhs as 50% central assistance for 9 SC girls hostels. The proposal has been examined and the State Government has been requested to furnish certain clarifications, which are awaited.

**Recommendations of Mandal Commission**

†1976. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Himachal Pradesh is the only State in the country where the recommendations of Mandal Commission have not been implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of States which are not implementing the recommendations of Mandal Commission; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The recommendations of Mandal Commission are being implemented in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep have not implemented the recommendations of Mandal Commission as there is no Backward Class population in these States/UTs.

(c) No action is required.

**National Policy for handicapped persons**

†1977. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has suggested to Government to formulate a National Policy for the Handicapped Persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) the National Human Rights Commission has suggested the constitution of a task force to frame a national policy and plan for the creation of barrier free infrastructure for the disabled in accordance with the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. The National Policy for Disability is already at an advanced stage of formulation. Also the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for creation of barrier free infrastructure in transport sector, roads and public buildings by the appropriate government within the limits of their economic capacity and development. Action to create barrier free facilities for persons with disabilities in public buildings, on roads and in transport has been initiated by various authorities in Central Government. The Urban Development Ministry has prepared Model Building Bylaws and guidelines for construction of barrier free buildings and circulated the same to all States/UTs for adoption. While old buildings are being modified to facilitate access to persons with disabilities, instructions have been issued to Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and other agencies to incorporate barrier free features in the designs for new buildings. The efforts of making public buildings barrier-free is a continuous process and progress depends on the resources available.

**Assistance for the welfare of backward classes**

†1978. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide cent-percent Central assistance for the welfare of Other Backward Classes on the lines of schemes being run for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Pre-matric Scholarships, Post matric Scholarships and Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls are being implemented

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.